GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
ISSUANCE OF MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to issue machine readable passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to issue machine readable passports to all categories in order to properly implement Advanced Passenger Information System?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) All Passport Offices in India are issuing machine printed and machine readable passports as per the specifications laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

(c) The Government has already embarked upon a project to ensure that all passports issued by Missions/Posts abroad are in the machine readable format by March, 2007.